

(c) REMARKS

The claims are 1-4 and 6-14 with claim 1 the sole independent claim. The subject matter of allowable claim 5 has been added to claim 1. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to depend on claim 1, rather than cancelled claim 5. Claim 15 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner had originally identified claims 4 and 5 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In a brief telephone conference the Examiner has now agreed that since claim 4 had been rejected in the outstanding action, that it is claims 5 and 6 which would be deemed allowable if in independent form.

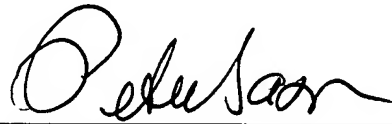
Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication, the subject matter of claim 5 has been added to claim 1. All the claims have been amended now to be dependent on allowable claim 1.

Claims 1-4 and 7-15 were rejected as obvious over Nakamura '502 in view of Shigemori . The subject matter of claims 1-4 and 7-15 has been cancelled and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. This action has been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issue. Applicants are considering filing a divisional application to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

Wherefore, it is submitted that the claims should be allowed and that the case should be passed to issue. If any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to resolve them.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Saxon", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Saxon
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 24,947

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
NY_524796v1